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16 May 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing on Political and Economic Status of South
Africa for HFAC Staffers Peckham, Rickerson and White

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1. On 16 May 1985, South Africa analysts (ALA) [redacted]
and [redacted] briefed the House Foreign Affairs Committee
staffers Peckham, Rickerson and White on the political and
economic situation in South Africa. The major emphasis of the
staffers' concerns focused on upcoming legislative action and
what effect any trade sanctions would have on South Africa.

2. The U.S. apparently plays only a minor role in South
Africa's overall trade market. The major countries are
Britain, Germany, Japan and Holland. Any trade sanctions that
we might place on trade with them would be superficial. A
fully coordinated effort with all countries would be the only
method of successfully implementing any influence on South
Africa.

3. The last portion of the briefing focused on energy
resources. The staffers also received a short summary of the
current policy departures from the old government.

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House Votes Sanctions Against South Africa

56 Republicans Back Anti-Apartheid Move

By Margaret Shapiro
Washington Post Staff Writer

The House, signaling strong bipartisan dissatisfaction with Reagan administration policy in South Africa, voted overwhelmingly yesterday to impose tough new sanctions in an attempt to force an end to the system of racial discrimination there.

The 295-to-127 vote came after the Democratic-controlled House rejected by similar margins two GOP efforts to delay implementation of sanctions and a proposal by Rep. Ronald V. Dellums (D-Calif.) to make them much more extreme.

Nearly one-third of Republicans—56 members—joined 239 Democrats in approving sanctions. Voting against were 121 Republicans and six Democrats.

On Tuesday, the Republican-controlled Senate Foreign Relations

Committee unexpectedly adopted legislation similar to, though not as far-reaching as, that approved by the House yesterday.

Sponsors of the House measure said the vote was a clear signal that the administration must stiffen its stance toward South Africa's apartheid system of segregation.

"This clearly demonstrates that the House of Representatives is for a change in policy . . .," said Rep. William H. Gray III (D-Pa.), one of the bill's chief sponsors. He said South Africa should now realize that it must change its ways or Congress may take "even stronger measures."

The House measure would ban new loans to and investment in South Africa, stop the sale of computers and computer parts to the government and halt importation of

See APARTHEID, A34, Col. 1

A34 THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1985

THE WASHINGTON POST

House Votes South Africa Sanctions

APARTHEID, From A1

krugerrands, the South African gold coins.

U.S. banks last year had \$343 million in outstanding loans to the South African government and \$4.6 billion to the private sector, according to the House Democratic Study Group. Last year, Americans bought about \$600 million worth of krugerrands, more than half of the number exported.

The measure imposes stiff penalties for violating sanctions, rang-

ing from a \$50,000 fine and five years in jail for individuals to \$1 million fines for organizations or businesses.

The bill would permit President Reagan to waive for a year bans on new investment and importing of the gold coins if he determines, and Congress agrees, that South Africa has met one of eight conditions in the bill. For each additional condition met, the waiver could be extended for six months.

The conditions would require South Africa to eliminate policies

prohibiting black employees and their families from living together near their place of employment, eliminate "influx control" policies that restrict blacks from seeking employment where they choose and end policies that give black and white South Africans different rights of citizenship.

South Africa would also have to stop removing blacks from certain locations because of race or ethnic origin, eliminate residence restrictions based on race and ethnic origins, begin talks with black leaders on a nondiscriminatory political system, reach an internationally recognized agreement on Namibia and free all political prisoners.

During debate, supporters of the bill said the administration policy of "constructive engagement"—working behind-the-scenes to produce change—has resulted in nothing significant.

They called the bill's economic sanctions "moderate" but a proper

response to escalating racial violence in South Africa. They also said that, in the eyes of South Africa's 22 million blacks, "constructive engagement" has put the United States on the side of a repressive white-minority government.

Rep. Howard E. Wolpe (D-Mich.), one of the bill's sponsors, said supporters have the "profound belief that this is the only way" to make South Africa change and "avert some of that bloodshed we see down the road. There is a bipartisan consensus that 'constructive engagement' has had enormously destructive consequences."

Opponents said sanctions would increase tension just as South Africa is indicating willingness to change. They said sanctions could lead to increased violence, eliminate many jobs for blacks and reduce U.S. influence in the region.

Many of the 56 Republicans who voted for the sanctions are liberals or moderates. They were joined by a few conservatives, including several who signed a letter in December to the South African ambassador demanding greater change.

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